

# NICKERSON CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP



**2006  
CAPE COD  
NATIONAL  
SEASHORE**

Proposals will be accepted for research in the broad areas of the natural and social sciences. Of current interest, are studies associated with water quality, air quality, kettle ponds, shorebirds, fish, aquatic organisms, saltmarshes, dune vegetation, and the political/social implications which accompany the management of these resources. The Fellowship Committee is also interested in proposals related to archeology, historic preservation, submerged cultural resources, and the influences of cultural change on natural resources. A list of Seashore research interests will be included with application materials.

Through this program, we are seeking self-directed qualified individuals whose work will contribute to our knowledge of natural and cultural resources within the Seashore, and their relationships with the local communities in which they are found.

THE NICKERSON CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP IS SPONSORED BY  
THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

# Joshua A. Nickerson Conservation Fellowship 2006 Request for Proposals

The Nickerson Conservation Fellowship Committee is currently soliciting proposals for the Nickerson Conservation Fellowship award. Proposals should briefly outline the objectives of the study, and include methods and budget. Emphasis should be placed on how the study will increase conservation efforts, or contribute to the protection of the seashore's natural resources.

Cape Cod National Seashore contains a diverse variety of habitats, characterized by open ocean and associated beaches, estuaries and tidal flats. In addition to the marine environment, the seashore is home to a unique kettle pond system, sensitive vernal ponds, and a vast area of heathlands, a rare habitat that supports a wide range of species and contributes to global biodiversity. More than 17 federally-listed threatened or endangered species are found throughout the seashore. The coastal and physical processes that initially formed Cape Cod, constantly reshape the area via wind, erosion, tides, and longshore currents. These conditions contribute to the sensitive environment that the Nickerson Conservation Fund is dedicated to study. Major ecosystems and areas of research interest include:

**Estuaries and Salt Marshes** - nutrients, sedimentation, restoration of vegetation, benthos, waterbirds, fish and other fauna

**Beaches, Spits, and Barrier Islands** - shoreline change, invertebrates, dune plants, waterbirds

**Ponds and Freshwater Wetlands** - kettle ponds, vernal pools, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, marshbirds

**Coastal Uplands** - grasslands, heathlands, forests, reptiles, landbirds, mammals

Also of interest are: non-native plants & animals, biodiversity monitoring, historic preservation, cranberry bog demonstration/restoration, archeology, submerged cultural resources, and political/social implications associated with the management of natural and cultural resources.

**Topic of interest:** While this project is put forth as a topic of interest, other topics related to resource management and protection will be given equal consideration for funding.

Proposals are sought for ecological research in Wellfleet's Herring River estuary in preparation for proposed tidal restoration. This 1100-acre ecosystem, diked and drained since 1909, and currently under serious consideration for habitat restoration by the town, Cape Cod National Seashore and state and federal cooperators, has been the subject of multi-disciplinary research for the past 30 years (see attached publication list). Thus, there is a solid background from which to plan additional studies that would be useful to describe current conditions, and to assess and predict the effects of tidal restoration on: ground- and surface-water hydrology, water and sediment quality, wetland and submerged vegetation, wildlife, shellfish, estuarine nekton, including diadromous species, nuisance insects and public-health bacteria.

**Eligibility:** Successful participant(s) will be affiliated with a recognized research or academic institution, and will possess the enthusiasm and qualification to carry out the proposed work with minimal involvement of seashore staff.

**Terms:** Proposal due by March 1, 2006. Stipend up to \$3,000. Seasonal housing available. Laboratory space may be available. Report due within one year.

Application page follows. Complete (print) and send to:

Nancy Finley, Chief Natural Resources, Cape Cod National Seashore  
99 Marconi Site Road, Wellfleet, MA 02667  
Phone: 508-349-3785, ext 216; e-mail: [nancy\\_finley@nps.gov](mailto:nancy_finley@nps.gov)

**Cape Cod National Seashore  
Advisory Commission  
99 Marconi Site Road  
Wellfleet, MA 02667**

**JOSHUA A. NICKERSON CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP  
Application**

Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

e-mail:

Please describe your interests in this fellowship opportunity, including the following information:

- a brief proposal for your project/research, methods, and relevance to the management of Seashore resources (3-5 pages)
- if student, a letter of support from faculty member/advisor
- your background and experience, setting forth your qualifications (resume?)
- equipment, materials, space and/or other requests
- budget (detailing expenditure of \$3,000)
- season during which you prefer to work

Send to: Nancy Finley, Chief Natural Resources  
Cape Cod National Seashore  
99 Marconi Site Road  
Wellfleet, MA 02667